

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application, of which claims 11-12 are newly-added.

Newly-added claims 11-12 are supported on page 13, lines 2-19 of the specification and in Fig. 3.

Claims 1, 3 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,085,177 to Semple et al. (hereinafter "Semple et al."), and claims 2 and 4-9 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Semple et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,505,178 to Flenley (hereinafter "Flenley").

Applicants respectfully traverse both of these rejections.

Although the Examiner urges that the "processing state tables of the present invention are equivalent to the "interfaces" in Semple et al., the use of different processing state table provides the advantage disclosed at page 23, line 15, namely, unification of the interfaces by use of different processing state tables.

The claims are now in condition for further examination.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/776,858**
Preliminary Amendment

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: RCE
Petition for Extension of Time

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